FTA NEWS

FOOD, TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA—CIO

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8,000 'CAMEL' WORKERS ON STRIKE FOR LIVING WAGE

See Pages 4-5

I wouldn't budge an inch for a CAMEL!

FTA'S No. 1 JOB—HELP REYNOLDS STRIKERS NOW!

The main job of every FTA member from now on out is to raise money and food for the relief of our 10,000 brothers and sisters now out on strike at the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. in Winston-Salem, N.C.

The strikers, members of Local 22, are maintaining their picketlines solidly in front of 73 plant gates for 24 hours of every day.

Every trick the company has tried—attempted provocation of "incidents," the red smear, rumors—all the tricks in the strikebreaking bag—have failed.

The only thing that can weaken this strike for a living wage is hunger.

Already the company has caused hundreds of workers to be served with eviction notices. Unemployment compensation rightfully due the workers has been held up.

THEY NEED HELP AND THEY NEED IT QUICK!

This is where you come in. Contribute yourself. Help your local pledge a regular weekly amount, both in cash and food. Get other CIO, AFL, Railroad unions to contribute. And remember—Don't Buy Camels or Prince Albert.

THEIR FIGHT IS OUR FIGHT!

Donald Henderson,
President

Harold J. Lane,
Sec'y-Treas.

Copies of this poster are free for the asking. Order from Publicity Dept., FTA-CIO, 158 N. 20th St., Philadelphia 3, Pa.

FROM WASHINGTON

FIGHT FOR A VETO

By ELIZABETH SASULY

At this writing, the deadline on the slave labor bill, there are two most serious dangers. One is that the President will not veto the bill. The other is that he will veto it to make a record for himself but see to it that the veto is overridden.

If anyone had illusions that a veto was all set, they should be dispelled by now. Every day, as the conferees from the Senate and House meet to iron out differences between the Hartley bill and the equally vicious Taft bill, unofficial representativse from the White House hang around the conference meetings to see if they can get the bill in a form "acceptable" to Truman.

Truman started out by saying he would go for only two anti-labor proposals, provisions against jurisdictional strikes and secondary boycotts. But when the Taft bill passed the Senate with provisions not only killing the Wagner Act but turning it into a weapon of the bosses, Truman was silent. He said nothing about a veto. He has allowed Congress to raise the ante on him time after time, and this is what is going on right now as the conference committee meets.

It is important that we understand the second possibility as well as the first. If Truman vetoes the bill in good faith, he can muster enough votes to sustain a veto. There were 24 votes against the Taft bill in the Senate. Sen. Thomas of Utah did not vote, but will vote to sustain a veto. Six more votes are needed.

Three men who voted for the bill can be switched easily by Truman if he says the word: Lucas of Illinois, Sparkman of Alabama, and Hatch of New Mexico. There is in fact reason to think that Truman let these senators vote for the bill so that he can switch some votes but not enough to make a veto stick. The real test will be whether if Truman vetoes the bill, he changes not only these three but three more which can be changed. Connally of Texas, O'Conner and Tydings of Maryland. Remember these facts and check when the showdown comes.

If all six votes listed do not come through, then the veto, even if it comes down, is a phoney, intended to keep labor in line for Truman, while at the same time the slave bill becomes law.

We are well past the time for speech making and agitation about the crisis we face. We are in the last stages of a battle for our lives. Only one thing can change the situation and save our unions: Mass pressure of a kind that has not been seen to date on Truman and on members of the Senate. No matter how many rallies have been held, how many petitions signed, and letters sent, the next ten days must see an overwhelming flood of communications to Truman saying: "No veto and no phoney veto."

These are the key points:

1) Wires, letters petitions to Truman.

2) Wires, letters, petitions to your senators.

3) Pressure on Democratic and Republican party leaders to kill the slave labor bill.

4) Complete mobilization of all non-labor community groups, church, farmers, etc. to call for a veto and the sustaining of a veto.

Tell It To Congress

Taft-Hartley Slave Labor Bill

In Conference. President Truman will have it before him when you receive this.

ACTION: WRITE, WIRE, PETITION FOR VETO: PRESIDENT TRUMAN, WHITE HOUSE. WRITE, WIRE, PETITION SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES TO VOTE TO UPHOLD VETO.

Rent Control, HR 3203, S 1017

House bill giving 15% increase by "agreement" or eviction passed. Senate bill, also bad due for vote very soon.

ACTION: Ask Senators to vote for Murray-Wagner bill which extends controls as they are now.

Veterans Aid Bills, S 407, S 326

Ends limit of $200 monthly ceiling for combined wages and vet's on-job training aid. S 326 increases vet subsistence allowances. Before Senate Labor Sub-Committee.

ACTION: Tell your senators to speed action.

Federal Anti-Lynch Bill, HR 3488

Makes lynching a federal crime to be prosecuted in U. S. Courts. Before House Judiciary Committee.

ACTION: Write Chairman Michener (R. Mich.), of House Judiciary Committee. We must have this law to stop lynching.

57 WAYS TO SLIT U. S. LABOR'S THROAT

(see page 4)

The Hartley slave labor bill (HR 3020) is 66 pages long. It contains 57 varieties of anti-union restrictions. The so-called "milder" Taft bill (S 1126) is almost as lengthy. It contains just as many varieties of fascist control of unions.

Lee Pressman, General Counsel of the CIO, analyzed these bills at the CIO National Entergency Conference in Washington, D. C. The folowing is a boiled-down summary of Pressman's analysis. Study it and TAKE ACTION NOW TO SAVE YOUR UNION AND YOUR JOB.

I. In general, both bills would throw labor-employer relations back not only to the conditions of 50 years ago but would put **"the government squarely in support of the employer and make the government a means of regimenting, crippling and hogtieing the entire labor movement."**

This would result in changing the labor movement from free trade unions to a "Labor Front" similar to that set up in Germany by the Nazis.

II. Both bills outlaw unions on a **national scale.** Hartley bill prohibits any strike in which two or more locals of a national union cooperate or consult. Taft bill prohibits a national union from working out a common policy on any question.

Both bills abolish industrial unionism by allowing any craft or professional unit in a plant to hold an election.

III. Both bills outlaw the closed shop. Union shop is made made impossible by requiring repeated elections and consent of majority of all employed to union shop. Union security is likewise made impossible. No union can expel or discipline labor spies, finks or scabs.

IV. Both bills so limit collective bargaining as to make it a farce. No union can bargain on welfare, insurance, union security. A simple accusation that any union official is a "communist" or has "promoted" "communist teachings, policies", etc., loses bargaining rights. At no point are these terms defined.

V. Strikes are virtually outlawed. A 75-day "cooling-off" period is required in all strikes. Only two or three pickets are allowed. Dozens of varieties of strikes are completely outlawed, such as a strike against speed-up, for greater safety, etc.

VI. The government can take over almost all internal affairs of unions, as the Nazis did in Germany in 1933. It can set dues, elections, terms of office, etc. Insurance and welfare plans are prohibited, as are any expenditure of union money for leaflets, newspapers, radio, etc.

Finally, both bills open up all unions to endless lawsuits for what are now normal union activities.

In brief, the Hartley and Taft bills would abolish unions.

NOT MUCH TIME

There's not much time left to save your union and your job—but you can still do it if you act NOW.

The Taft-Hartley slave labor bill is on its way to President Truman for signature or veto.

CIO President Philip Murray has called this bill "the first real step toward the development of fascism in the U.S.A."

FTA President Donald Henderson has said it sets up "a fascist system of employer-government control over unions."

Brothers and sisters—it is happening here. The only thing that can stop it is an avalanche of wires and letters to President Truman demanding a veto of the Taft-Hartley slave labor bill.

Write, wire NOW to President Harry S. Truman, White House, Washington, D.C. Demand a veto of the Taft-Hartley slave labor bill!

FTA NEWS

Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers Union of America — CIO

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FTA Members Lead In Fight On Slave Labor

Fifty-two FTA rank and filers, drawn from 15 states and twenty-five communities, went to Washington late last month to tell their Congressmen what the people back home think about the Taft-Hartley slave labor bill, now on its way to President Truman for signature or veto.

They told the Congressmen that the people want none of it, that they want American labor to stay free to organize and fight for better working and living conditions.

They told them that passage of the Taft-Hartley bill would destroy "not only the living standards of the workers but also the welfare of the entire country."

The delegates found three basic reactions in the interviews—or attempted interviews—with the Congressmen and Senators.

One was the polite but evasive type — he saw the delegates, smiled throughout the interview, remarked that he was glad to see everybody, and refused to commit himself on anything except the weather. This type was well represented by courtly Sen. Ferguson (R., Mich.), who smiled—and said nothing.

The second type was nasty, rude and domineering to the delegates, represented at one extreme by Sen. Eastland (D., Miss.) who referred to CIO as "your GD***n union" and by Sen. Vandenberg's (R., Mich.) assistant, Mr. Vandenberg, Jr., who said coldly " you can form your own opinion as to what the Senator thinks about labor."**

Sens. Hoey and Umstead (D., N. C.), were also in this second classification, Umstead closing the visit with the threatening remark "the final day is coming." (P.S., the delegates agreed with him—for Umstead.)

The third type simply wouldn't see his constituents, though they had travelled hundreds of miles to talk to him. Included in this lot of busy statesmen were Sens. Vandenberg, Sr., Taft (GOP, '48), Hawkes (R., N. J.), Byrd (D., Va.), Ives (R., N. Y. and Dewey, '48), Brooks (R., Ill.), who has been correctly described as a "wholly owned subsidiary of the Chicago Tribune."

These, plus a string of smaller fry from the House of Representatives, didn't have "time" to see their constituents, or had to be called off the floor for hasty and evasive interviews. Still others, like Rep. Cole (R., N. Y.), deliberately broke appointments.

All of them when questioned said they hadn't had "time" to study the Taft-Hartley bill, though its been up for many weeks. What they do with their time — costing the taxpayers $15,000 a year in salary alone — they did not reveal.

That was how the reactionary leaders of the 80th Congress, who have just sent the Taft-Hartley slave labor bill to President Truman, received their working class constituents. A few progressives, like Marcantonio (ALP, N.Y.C., Platnik (D., Minn.), Sen. Wagner (D., N.Y.) were, as always, friendly and helpful. But the majority . . .

"These things," the delegates said at the end of the visit, "will be reported back home. The fight against the working people being led in Congress by Republicans and polltax Democrats must be met by the organized and united opposition of all workers.

"We intend to help lead that opposition when we get back home."

REYNOLDS STRIKE SOLID IN FOURTH WEEK: CIO BACKS BIGGEST FIGHT

(See Pages 1, 4, 5)

The biggest strike in FTA history—and the biggest strike now going on in the U.S.A.—entered its second month in Winston-Salem, N.C., this week, as 10,000 FTA members picketed the huge R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company's 73 plant gates on a 24 hour a day schedule.

The strike was caused by the flat refusal of the Reynolds Company (makers of Camel cigarettes and Prince Albert smoking tobacco) to go beyond a 5½ cent an hour wage raise offer on the FTA Local demand for a 15 cent an hour straight across the board raise, in line with other CIO wage gains.

Quick support for the strike came from CIO President Philip Murray, who wired to a mass meeting of strikers in Winston-Salem:

"The 6,000,000 members of CIO stand solidly behind the striking FTA members at the R. J. Reynolds Co. We wish you every success in bringing this rich and powerful corporation into line with other employers who have granted substantial wage increases in recent weeks."

CIO President Murray's support was folowed by an endorsement from John Brophy, director of CIO Industrial Union Councils, who urged CIO Councils to support the strike financially and by urging their members not to buy Camel cigarettes or Prince Albert pipe tobacco.

Meantime, the Reynolds Company, despairing of breaking the strike by other means, ordered the Winston-Salem "Star-Journal" — the only newspaper in town—to break out with a phoney red scare in an attempt to divide and confuse the workers.

The best the Winston paper could do on Reynolds orders was to scrape up a previously discharged typist and two disgruntled officials of the union, both of whom had refused to continue working for the union during the strike without pay, though every other union official accepted the temporary paycheck cutoff.

No less a personage than the editor of the Star-Journal himself—A Mr. Dure—took on the assignment for the Reynolds company, saying at the time that he would end this strike "if he had to break the union to do it."

Both stoolpigeons — Spencer Long and Gene Pratt—had long interviews and their pictures in the paper. Both claimed the strike was "communistic." Both lied freely about their experiences in the union—and both got a free trip to Washington, D. C.

The "expose" was a dud. The pickets continued to picket, only in greater numbers than before. Support from CIO and other unions, as well as liberal and religious groups, came in in greater volume than ever before. Fewer and fewer Camel cigarettes rolled off the lines and less and less Prince Albert tobacco.

Within less than a week of firing this damp squib, the company was intimating that it would like to resume negotiations again. FTA, which has always been ready to talk collective bargaining in good faith, responded by telling the Asst. Secretary of Labor in a wire from President Henderson:

"FTA-CIO has made repeated proposals for the resumption of negotiations with the Reynolds Tobacco Co. in the strike involving 10,000 workers in Winston-Salem, N. C.

"These requests have been ignored by the company and have not so far produced results from the U. S. Conciliation service. In the interests of settling this dispute the union urges you now to direct the resumption of negotiations looking forward in good faith to an immediate and just settlement of the issues involved in the strike.

"Such a resumption of bona fide collective bargaining negotiations, repeatedly urged by the union, will serve the interests of the workers, the public and the company."

Failing to get anywhere with the red scare, the company is turning to an old and familiar weapon—evictions from company dominated houses and hunger.

Both these weapons must be met with the workers' counter-weapon—financial support to the strikers. Money should be rushed to: Willie Grier, strike treasurer, Local 22, FTA-CIO, 247½ N. Main St., Winston-Salem, N. C.

DON'T LET THE REYNOLDS STRIKERS DOWN!

MR. & MRS. FTA GO TO WASHINGTON

Fifty FTA delegates from 15 states and better than 25 cities and towns poured into Washington last week to fight slave labor bills. Coming directly from shops and plants, they told their Senators and Congressmen that the people want no part of the Taft and Hartley anti-union bills. Here they listen to Palmer Weber, of CIO-PAC, (left), as he discusses the job ahead — defeating reaction, building independent political action. Republican Congress leaders insulted the delegates. Democrats were more polite, but evasive.

Under the company overpass, where it says: Camels Lead The World and, Prince Albert—The National Joy Smoke, FTA-CIO pickets march on the continuous picketline. They ask you: don't smoke Camels or Prince Albert; support our strike.

These pickets ask you: Don't Buy Camel cigarettes or Prince Albert smoking tobacco. Help our strike: rush contributions (money, food) to: Willie Grier, strike treasurer, Local treasurer, Local 22 FTA-CIO, 247½ N. Main Street, Winston-Salem, N. C.

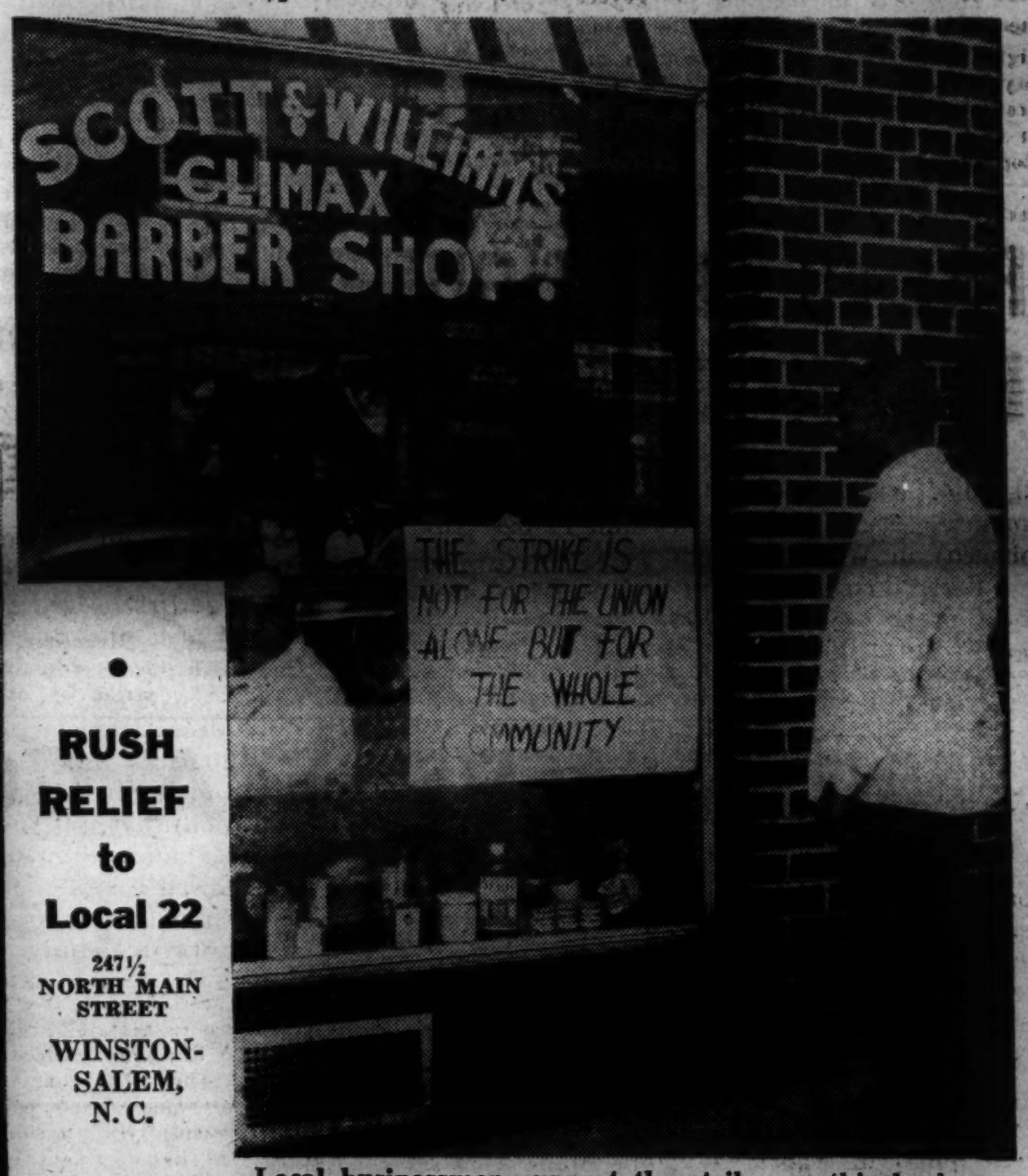
Here are the issues in the strike at the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.:

1. The workers demand a 15c wage raise, in line with CIO policy.
2. Reynolds had a total profit last year of $49,000,000 —three times the total paid out in wages.
3. Over 8,000 white and Negro workers are out; have kept plant at less than 20% of output since April 30.

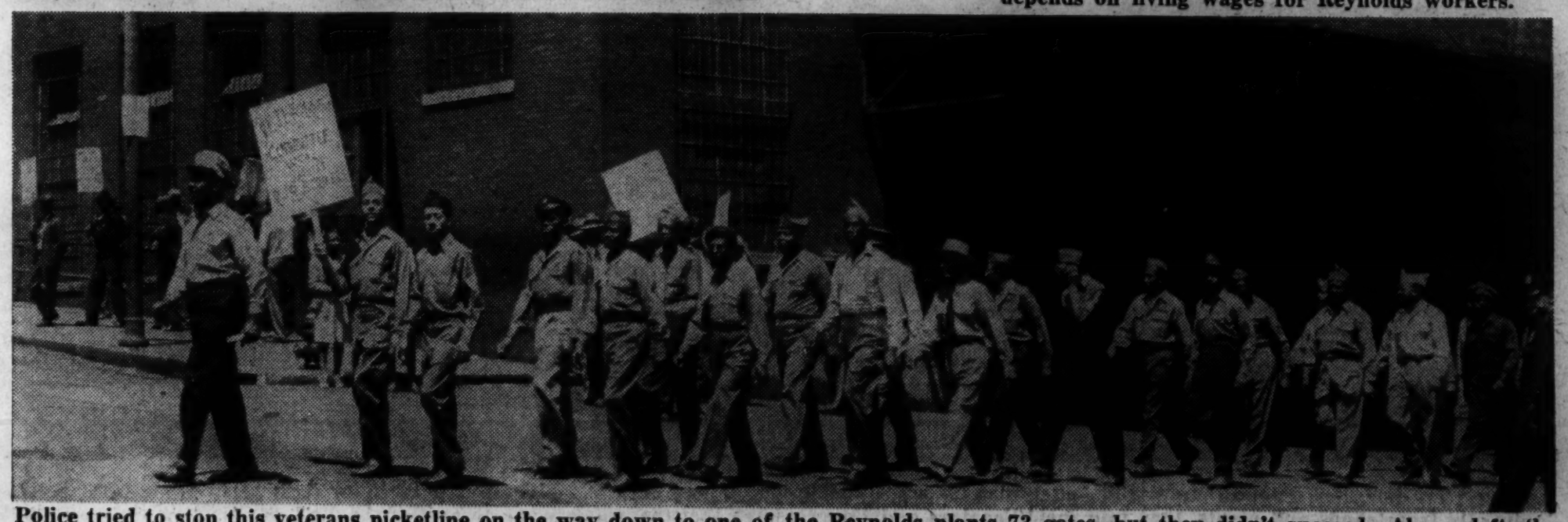
RUSH RELIEF to Local 22

247½ NORTH MAIN STREET

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C.



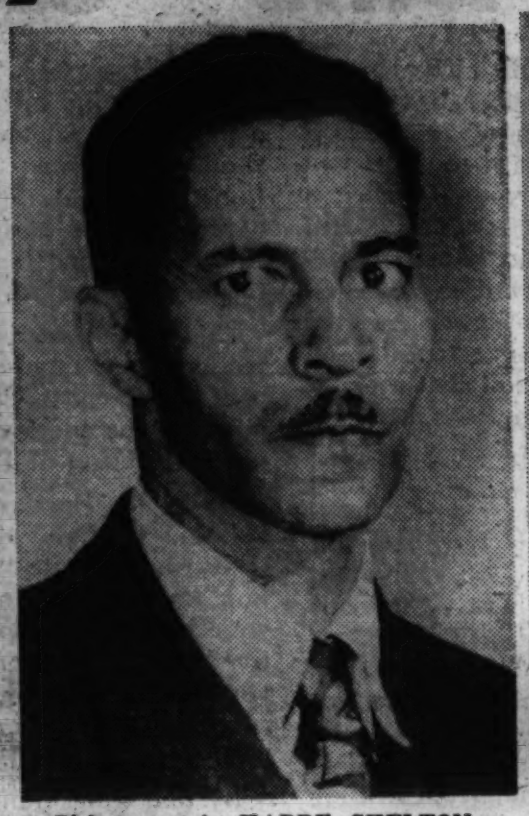
Local businessmen support the strike, as this barber-shop sign shows. Over 200 of them have formed a local committee to aid strikers, realizing their prosperity depends on living wages for Reynolds workers.



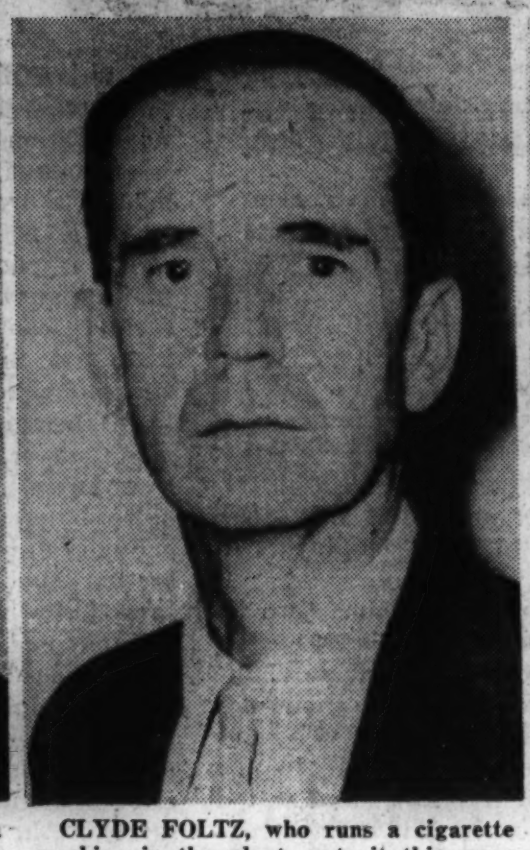
Police tried to stop this veterans picketline on the way down to one of the Reynolds plants 73 gates, but they didn't succeed. Above, left, the veterans, Negro and white together, do their turn. Cop stands on right, one foot dragging in the gutter.

Why I Am On Strike

Says VIOLA BROWN, employed in the Strip Preparing Dept: "The 5½c the company offered simply won't meet the cost of living. According to the government, Winston-Salem showed the second highest rise in the cost of food of any city in the U.S. The company makes $3.00 profit on every dollar it pays out to us in wages. We have to keep our unity to stop exploitation like that."



Picket captain HARRY SHELTON, a plug capper in the plant where Brown's Mule Chewing Tobacco is made says: "I'm on strike because of the high cost of living. Wages are too low, and I'm out until the company raises them. I started 27 years ago, working 10 hours a day for $3.50 a week. I'm not going back to wages like that, which is what the company eventually aims at making us do. 'No contract, no work' is my motto."



CLYDE FOLTZ, who runs a cigarette machine in the plant, puts it this way: "I'm for FTA-CIO 100% in their drive to make this town a better place to live. I've worked at Reynolds more than 30 years, and I've seen more improvements in the five years since the union than the 25 before. I'm on the picketline to make sure things keep on getting better for all of us instead of letting the company push us back to the days of Hoover."

EBA BLEVINS, packer operator, express it like this: "This strike is an important chance to show all Southern workers how real unity can bring benefits to everybody—and that's one reason why I'm on strike." Sister Blevins has been 21 years with the company, has seen many gains since the union came. That's why, she says, she wants to "fight that much harder for security in the future."

FACTS AND FIGURES BEHIND THE STRIKE

Here are a few of the cold facts behind the strike of 10,000 FTA members of the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., (makers of Camel cigarettes and Prince Albert smoking tobacco) in Winston-Salem, N. C.

Keep them handy for use against the rumors, lies and slanders being put out in the press and over the radio about the strike—and remember that Reynolds spends $35,000,000 a year on advertising.

REYNOLDS WAGES

Reynolds workers do well to average 72c an hour. Seasonal workers, working 28 weeks a year, average $900 a year income.

The workers are asking for a 15c raise across the board. Reynolds "top offer" was 5½c. The company also demanded a cut in seasonal earnings by cutting overtime pay.

REYNOLDS PROFITS

Reynolds had a total profit of $49,309,000 in 1946, before taxes but after all other costs including wages. Profits after taxes were $28,000,000.

Total wages paid out were $16,000,000. Thus, for every dollar of wages, Reynolds made a profit of $3.00, before taxes, $1.75 after taxes. This is far higher than other manufacturing profit ratios.

REYNOLDS DIVIDENDS, FEES

Reynolds paid out $19,264,000 in dividends in 1946—$3,000,000 more than it paid in wages.

17 Reynolds Directors split $1,037,847.70 in salary, bonus, fees and dividends in 1945. Average, $60,050.

A seasonal worker would have to work 64 years to earn what one director gets in one year.

S. Clay Williams, chairman of Reynolds board, took $127,298.51 out of Reynolds workers in 1945.

A seasonal worker would have to work 135 years to equal that amount.

J. A. Gray, chairman of Reynolds executive committee, took $186,098.51 in 1945.

A seasonal worker would require 197 years to equal that.

R. J. Reynolds III took $245,432 in dividends in 1945.

A seasonal worker would require 259 years to equal that amount.

REYNOLDS WORKERS HAVE NO RESOURCES. RUSH RELIEF FUNDS TO: WILLIE GRIER, STRIKE TREASURER, LOCAL 22, 247½ N. MAIN ST., WINSTON-SALEM, N. C.

UNITED LABOR WINS WINSTON ELECTION 'MACHINE' SHAKEN

Two labor-endorsed alderman candidates, one of them the first Negro to gain such a post since the turn of the century, were elected in Winston-Salem, N. C. after winning the Democratic primaries, thus shaking this monopoly-ridden city to its political roots and providing a nationall-significant triumph for the newly-formed United Labor Committee of Forsyth County.

The election victory came in the first week of FTA Local 22's month old strike against the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.

The ULC, composed of AFL, CIO and independent union representatives, formally endorsed the Rev. Kenneth Williams, progressive Negro minister, and two other aldermanic candidates following a history-making mass rally when AFL CIO and independent union speakers addressed a crowd of white and Negro workers who packed the main courtroom and overflowed on the law and sidewalk of the courthouse square.

Williams, running in a predominantly working-class ward, scored a smashing triumph over five opponents. His vote almost equalled the total combined vote of the other five candidates. Nomination in the Democratic primary here is virtually equivalent of election. Also nominated with labor support was Alderman Candidate Fred C. Denny.

A third candidate endorsed for the board of aldermen, Gam D. Bates, was defeated. Dewey A. Herrin, unsuccessful candidate for the mayoralty nomination, fell heir to a thumping big vote when the ULC denounced his two opponents as having "consistently lined up with the machine control of the city, which has ignored or actively fought the interests of the working people on every occasion."

Hanes Knitting and R. J. Reynolds Tobacco interests, which for decades have kept this community under a heavy thumb, received advance warning of the tremendous strength being built here by over-all labor unity at the ULC's "Defend the Public" rally on the eve of the election.

Although the main object of the rally was to rouse labor and the general public against high prices and anti-labor laws, speakers made no bones about the common aim of all labor to revamp the state legislature, which has passed a vicious "right to work" act, and to bring about a return to Roosevelt principles in 1948.

Over 500 petitions issued by the ULC were signed at the rally, calling upon President Truman to defend the public from the depression-bound drive of the corporations to drain the pocketbooks of the nation with high prices, and beat down wage levels with union-crushing laws.

Highlights of the rally here included fiery, down-to-earth addresses by S. E. Blaine, vice president of the Tobacco Workers International Union, AFL, and W. R. Dalton, Reidsville (N. C.) attorney and veteran battler of monopoly greed.

Dalton blasted the phony concern of the North Carolina General Assembly about "labor monopoly" in passing its anti-closed shop, anti-checl off and union security crippling law. He cited the colossal profits and unlimited power of the electric, telephone, and insurance monopolies operating in the state, toward whose robbery of the public the legislature is deaf, dub and blind.

Blaine laid down a clear and forceful outline of the prospects for labor in North Carolina, exposing not only what needs to be done politically, but pointing out in detail the steps of fund-raising and ward organization by which it can be accomplished by a united labor movement.

Other speakers included Charles R. Green, representing the striking National Federation of Telephone Workers; Radford Powell, chairman of the AFL Allied Shop Committee in Reidsville; Miss Moranda Smith, international executive board member of FTA-CIO and chairman of its local 22 educational committee; and Mrs. Mattie Dyers, representative of the TWIU-AFL in the Liggett and Myers plant.

Preparation for the rally included quarter-page "Defend the Public" advertisements in both local newspapers, inviting all workers, members of all unions, and all citizens to attend.

The ad pointed out that "With profits already swollen to gigantic size, the big monopoly corporations are attacking the public on two fronts: 1) with robbery prices that are rapidly draining the pocketbooks of the nation; and 2) with a drive in Congress to crush labor unions and thus keep any of their super-profits from going back to the people in wages."

"There can be only one result of this: DEPRESSION! when buying power collapses and trade and industry and farming slump," the ad continued, adding that "When OPA was killed the power to hold down monopoly prices were lost. Now only Labor, strong enough for collective bargaining, can battle the power and greed of corporations and uphold wages and buying power."

Slave Labor Bills—& You

This is what the Hartley and Taft slave labor bills will mean to you—IF THEY BECOME LAW.

This analysis, made by Lee Pressman, general counsel of the CIO, was given at the CIO Emergency Conference in Washington April 13.

Read it and pass it around to your shopmates and your neighbors.

THEN GET OUT AND GET BUSY!

We have confronting us today something completely different from anying that we have ever seen.

Let that point sink in. We have not today merely another anti-labor bill. You simply cannot go on the assumption that, if this bill is passed, somehow we will be able by virtue of our very numbers in the CIO to combat the efforts of anti-labor employers, that we will still be able to make all the gains that the membership desires, that we will still be able to preserve our unions as we have in the past.

There is a vital difference between a conservative who is just anti-labor, who doesn't want to give labor the wage increase or the improvement in working conditions that a strong union can extract, as against fascists who are determined to destroy not merely organized labor but every form of democratic institution in the country today. And the latter is precisely what is facing the nation.

This time they are proposing legislation that not merely takes away your rights under existing laws. It doesn't merely emasculate the Wagner Act. It goes much further. It makes it plain that the Government itself will be the agent dedicated under the very law to smash organized labor.

For example, let me bring to you about four or five items out of these bills.

There has been a great deal of public discussion that there must be legislation to prevent industry-wide collective bargaining.

Now, as a practical matter I think there are about three or four industries—and if I am not mistaken only one basic industry—where you actually have today industry-wide collective bargaining.

So, when they say they are urging or proposing legislation to eliminate industry-wide collective bargaining, that is a complete hoax.

What the bill does do is this: you will not, if this bill is passed, be able to have a national union.

In other words, no two local unions that represent the employes of two employers in the same industry can meet together to discuss a current program. They can't get advice or counsel from the national union on how they shall settle differences and what they shall say to their employers if they meet them.

And if by chance two local unions in the same industry were to strike at the same time and their demands on their two employers happened to be about the same, that would be an illegal strike from which the employers could get injunctions to drive the men back to work, and could sue and get damages. And if that were not sufficient, they could go to the new Natl. Labor Relations Board and get an order that the strikes are unfair labor practices, and could drive the men back to work under conditions the employers seek to impose.

There is another phase of the bill which allegedly addresses itself to the kind of strikes that may be held. And they have a long list of activities or strikes which are declared to be unlawful. What are those?

What is a monopolistic strike? It is any two local unions that meet and strike at the same time where their memberships happen to be in the plants of two competing employers, It is an unlawful strike, mind you, even though there is no violation of contract. It is an unlawful strike if you submit a demand against a speedup. It is an unlawful strike if you submit a demand that you have unsatisfactory conditions in the plant. It is an unlawful strike if you strike in order to get the employer to recognize you where you have a majority.

Now, as if that wasn't enough, they have another section that does this: It says that wherever there is a threatened strike or stoppage in any industry which in the opinion of the Attorney General would threaten the national interests or national health or safety — in the opinion of the Attorney General — then he can get an injunction from the Federal Courts to prevent such a strike.

Now mind you, before you get to that point, the bill establishes a cooling off period for any kind of a threatened stirike, of 60 days. Then if you intend to proceed further the Attorney General looks into the matter and decides in his opinion that there is a threat to national interests, national health or safety.

He then gets an injunction, and under the injunction anyone who violates it is in contempt of court—the individual strikers or the union.

That injunction, under both the Hartley and Taft Bills, lasts for 60 days. During that period where the employer has been sitting back and saying "no, no, no," under the bill there is a provision that the parties should continue negotiations, and if at the end of agreement the Natl. Labor Relations Board is directed to hold an election.

And that vote, is to ask whether the men are prepared to accept the last offer given by the employers during that period of 120 days.

Under the Hartley Bill, in addition to that vote, there is also in the vote the question, do you wish to change your bargaining representative? In other words, are you prepared to go to a company union or some rival organization?

By that time, though it is under the guise of a so-called cooling off period, unquestionably what they have done is frozen the workers to death.

Now, there is another provision that addesses itself to union security. To many of the newspaper columnists, to people in Congress, union security today is in the form of opposition to union security—to protect the "inalienable right" of the individual worker not to join a union if he so desires or join if he so chooses.

Legislation which denies union security in collective bargaining contracts is legislation that is designed to destroy unions because it encourages employers not to recognize any unions at all.

So, what does this bill do on union security? In the first place the closed shop is made completely unlawful. With regard to the union shop and maintenance of membership, you can present your demand to the employers only if you have been certified by the Natl. Labor Relations Board. In an election on the specific issue of the union shop, two-thirds of the men voting must say that they want the union shop provision, and that two-thirds must be at least a majority of all of the employes in the unit, whether they voted or not. And the employer is not obligated to grant you the union shop if he wants to refuse it. Since he is not obligated to bargain with you on the issue, the bill goes on to provide that if you strike in order to get the union shop, that is an unlawful strike for which the employer can get an injunction, sue for damages, and get an order that it is an unfair labor practice.

There is another provision which I say has been offered to the American public under a terrific barrage of hypocrisy. This is the provision that goes to say that in order to establish equality of responsibility between unions and employers, we should permit employers to sue unions for breach of contract in the Federal Court.

The Norris - LaGuardia Act, which controls lawsuits in the Federal courts, has this provision: That no union can be sued for damages unless you can prove clearly that the union has specifically authorized the act of that agent which caused that damage or that breach of contract.

No, this new bill says nothing about that provision. It does go on to say that when you sue a union in the Federal court hereafter all you have to do is show that the act was performed by an agent of the union . . . regardless of whether it had been authorized or ratified by the union itself.

Now, in considering this legislation, it isn't sufficient to merely talk about so-called anti-labor legislation. This is not the issue that is confronting the American people today.

As President Murray has indicated, there is a drive on in this country by the fascist forces . . . as exhibited by the extortionate monopolistic profits and their demands that wages be constantly repressed. Those are the groups and the forces that are determined to get this legislation to destroy the only group, the only organized voice, that is in opposition to that program.

It's not too serious, Doc—the machine isn't hurt at all.

BUSINESS LOBBIES JAM WASHINGTON

Now that big business lobbyists have been required to register for the first time in Congressional history, some interesting facts have come to light on the food industry pressure boys in Washington.

Five canning companies, including Libby, McNeill and Kodiak Fisheries, retain two representatives at $250 and $200 a day. The best paid lobbyist registered thus far is Charles A. Horsky who gets $250 a day from a group of salmon canning companies.

The United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Assn., representing 16,000 grower-shippers who produce and handle three-fourths of the commercial fresh fruit and vegetables in the U.S., pays $25,000 a year to a Washington lobbyist. The National League of Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Distributors pays another man $8,000 a year.

While there are still many lobbyists who have not yet registered, the sugar interests have one of the most expensive and largest lobby operations in Washington. Nine organizations representing sugar refiners and growers pay 10 lobbyists salaries ranging from $40,000 a year to $8,000 a year.

What these groups are doing is obvious in their constant efforts to have their stooges in Congress sneak through laws aimed at agricultural and food processing workers.

It is a matter of public record that the brains behind the Taft-Hartley slave labor bills included lobbyists employed by the steel trusts, the Morgan - Rockefeller interests and the NAM.

While big business agents in Washington receive fabulous salaries from a handful of trusts and employer organizations, Washington representatives for CIO internationals receive modest salaries and work for the interests of the people.

Information Please?

What price "information?" The National Association of Manufacturers thinks that no price is too high for the stream of propaganda that pours out from the NAM to the newspapers and the radio for you to read.

They're busy right now lining up their big shots to collect funds from employers for the 1947 drive of the "National Industrial Information Committee" which puts out the fancy ads, pamphlets, releases, radio programs and such that NAM knows so well how to do.

Here's the list of top tycoons they've selected to put the bite on employers for the NIIC drive:

Lammot duPont, head of duPont and Co., majority owner of General Motors, feudal lord of Delaware; J. Howard Pew, head of Sun Oil, boss of Pennsylvania's Republican Party; W. B. Bell, head of American Cynamid; B. E. Hutchison of Chrysler Motors and "our own" A. W. Eames, head of the California Packing Corp., an $80,000,000.00 firm and the largest fruit and vegetable cannery concern in the country.

Last year the NAM spent better than $5,000,000 on "information." Remember those NAM ads that said: "If OPA is permanently discontinued, production of goods will mount rapidly and through free competition, prices will quickly adjust themselves to levels that consumers are willing to pay?"

That's NAM "information."

The Mailbag Brings . . .

Dear Sisters and Brothers of FTA-CIO:

I am a reader of FTA NEWS and I get a lot of pleasure out of it. I am a member of the union, though not a worker — a housewife. Knowing just how much the union means to our people I want to help keep the members encouraged.

I read in the paper about what's going on in Washington, and I do hope and pray everything will work out alright for us somehow. You have all my prayers and good hopes.

Enclosed is a dollar for the paper. Sometimes I don't get to see it, and I want to be sure to get it regularly.

Fraternally yours,
Mrs. Beulah Dixon,
Kinston, N. C.

RUSH RELIEF

10,000 FTA strikers at the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. in Winston-Salem, N.C., look to you for help in keeping their picketlines going 24 hours a day around 73 plant gates.

Money and food are urgently needed. Rush both to: Willie Grier, strike treasurer, FTA Local 22, 247½ N. Main St., Winston-Salem, N.C.

28 Wins 15c Raise

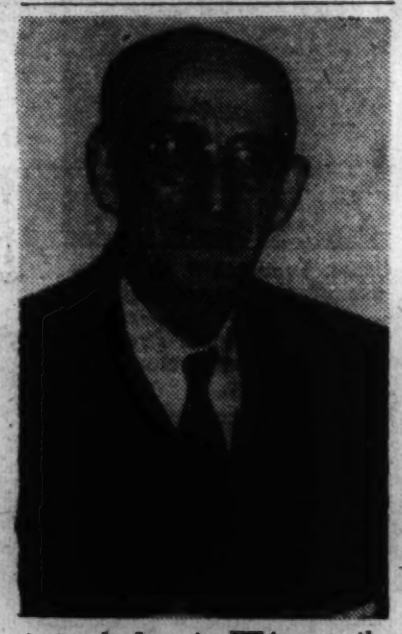
Wage increases of 10 to 15c an hour and a 72c an hour minimum were won by members of Local 28 at the Ralston-Purina Co. in Charlotte, N. C., in a new contract signed recently.

Vacations of one week for one year and two weeks for five years, three paid holidays, good seniority and grievance procedure, were also won. Maintenance of membership and voluntary check-off is to go into effect when the present anti-labor law is declared invalid.

KNOWS THE ANSWERS

Nellie Calderon, FTA shop steward at the Califruit cannery in Manteca, California, knows the answers.

When one of the workers on the job asked her what nationality she was, she replied, "Pure blooded CIO."



A tragic loss to FTA was the death of Local 18 president W. H. Wheeler. Employed by the California Packing Corp. in DeKalb, Ill., for 12 years, Brother Wheeler was an active member of the union from the start. Chief shop steward Earl Burns was with him in the crash that took both their lives.

NOTICE

Due to circumstances beyond our control, FTA News for May 1, 1947, did not appear, and this May 15 issue has been delayed.

Thanks to all correspondents for sending in items — and apologies to all for any items unavoidably omitted.

From the Locals

OREGON'S 1ST UNION SCHOOL HELD BY FTA

By Ericka Burgess

For the first time in the history of the trade union movement in the Northwest a union leadership training school took place this week in Oregon.

Representatives from Oregon locals of FTA met in Portland to teach and to learn. Approximately 30 union officers and stewards attended.

There were classes on local administration, political action, duties of shop stewards, membership meetings, wage policy, trade union education, and organizing. The discussion ranged from pickles to Greece. The classes were directed by Miss Connie Anderson, National Educational Director FTA-CIO; FTA Regional Director Wendell Phillips; Xenneth Smith, business agent, Local 145; and State Director Frank V. Patterson.

In frank approval of the classes and in anticipation that they would stimulate other unions to adopt similar school programs Stanley Earle, director of the Oregon State Industrial Union Council said: "With these classes FTA has made one of the most forward steps in the State of Oregon."

Growers Seek 25c Wage Through Labor Imports

While thousands of Texas farm laborers and their families are being forced by low wages to migrate from the Rio Grande Valley, U. S. immigration authorities are reported to be easing entry regulations for Mexican labor under cover of an alleged farm labor "shortage".

Pressure from the Texas Shippers and Growers Association for a 25c an hour rate for the imported laborers is heavy on the immigration authorities. In California the rate is 60c an hour and in Arizona, 50c.

In a wire of protest to the Commissioner of the U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, FTA Regional Director Harry Koger declared:

"Associated Press reports the current migration of farm laborers from Texas at 140,000. At same time, local news stories indicate your office may authorize a 30c an hour wage for alien farm labor in Texas plus the easing of entry restrictions.

"We strongly protest this rank discrimination against our citizens. We favor legal importation of farm labor if and when needed, but not at cut-throat competitive wages which force thousands of Texas families to leave their homes and endure severe hardships because they are denied the right to work at a living wage at home.

"There is no farm labor shortage in Texas."

Wage scales in the Rio Grande Valley are purely artificial because thousands of illegally entered Mexicans are forced to take any wage offered them without complaint or face deportation, Koger revealed. The feeling is bitter among the Mexican-American people in the Valley, San Antonio and the Winter Garden section of Texas who must remain idle while their jobs are taken by others.

This is not a case of complaining about "foreign" labor, he pointed out. The situation would be the same if cheap labor was being transported from Louisiana or Arkansas to replace residents of Texas.

FTA members are urged to write Commissioner Ugo Carusi of the U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, Room 1404 Franklin Trust Bldg., Philadelphia, Pa., protesting the continued importation of "slave labor" while Texas workers remain idle.

Win Top Compress Wages

Recently concluded cotton compress wage negotiations in Houston, Texas, set a new high for the industry in the South. Throughout the three-week negotiations there was close coordination between FTA Local 75 negotiators and representatives of the AFL Longshoremen's Assn. backed by a determined rank and file.

This proved too much for the Gulf Atlantic Warehouse Co., a subsidiary of Anderson and Clayton, which had been accustomed to play off one union against the other. Gulf Atlantic settlement was followed by agreement at the Independent, Port City and Southern Compress plants.

The raise of 10c an hour brings total increases since V-J day to 25c. Workers now average 85c an hour with rates for classified jobs up to $1.02. Minimum for sweepers is 75c an hour and 80c for truckers.

With FTA representing seven compress plants and the ILA two, practically the entire compress industry in Houston was threatened with a shutdown. Full support had been pledged by the Houston Industrial Union Council and by many church and civic groups.

Win Rights In California

An interim agreement giving FTA sole bargaining rights, checkoff for those signing authorizations and grievance procedure, was signed between Local 82 and the Stanislaus and Califruit canneries in Modesto, Califorinia at their first negotiating meeting April 11. The agreement will serve while negotiations continue for a contract.

At a meeting called by Local 82 that evening, committees from the Stanislaus and Califruit plants were elected. The members recognized that the operators would try to destroy FTA before it got started, but as Stanislaus shop steward Carl Zarloca said; **"if they're going to make us do it the hard way, we'll do it the hard way, and when we get done, they'd better look out. We're going to build a union of cannery workers. When cannery workers get mad they fight. And with FTA they'll win."**

'LEARN BY DOING' AT FTA SCHOOLS

Students at FTA's West Coast Training School, held at Asilomar, Calif., got the news as they came into classes each morning from Lydia Baldivia, Local 25, handing out paper. On Sister Valdivia's right are Ruth Beckner, Local 78; Danny Delfin, Local 7, Portland, Ore., Warren Cole, Local 78, Porterville, Calif., Marian White, Local 50, Oakland, Calif. and Intl. Organizer Steve Murdock, Modesto, Calif.

Where would a local union be without a mimeograph? FTA's West Coast Leadership Training School included a practical course in turning out mimeo leaflets, plus use of the mimeoscope to make attractive layouts. Ann Salazar (left), Local 64, San Diego, Calif., works on the mimeoscope while Wesley Hensley, Local 82, Modesto, Calif., and Kenneth Smith, Local 145, Portland, Ore., go over copy for the leaflet. Al Sabado, Local 7, Seattle, turns the crank and Roberta Montgomery, international organizer and Agnes Adams, Local 64 check the finished product.

You learn by doing when you go to an FTA Leadership School. Here Marge Briggs, Local 78, Portersville, Calif., acts as secretary at a local meeting while Vincent Carino (center), Local 7, San Francisco, prepares to turn the chairmanship over to Ramona Winters, Local 25, Los Angeles, Cal.

By Steve Murdock

"Learn by doing" was the watchword of the FTA West Coast Leadership training school held at Asilomar, California, March 30-April 5.

Twenty students from nine FTA locals, located from Seattle to San Diego, assembled amid the pines of the famed Monterey peninsula to put in a solid week of hard, practical work, designed to make each student a more effective leader of his or her local.

FTA Educational Director Connie Anderson explains it this way: "The best way to learn about a mimeograph machine is to run one. The same goes for cuttings and lettering a stencil. We started out by dividing up into groups to produce bulletins and leaflets, but everyone got so interested that they started producing personal leaflets."

Roberta Montgomery, international organizer, who instructed the workers in mimeographing, said: "Practically every student at the school turned out a leaflet. They did everything themselves—the writing, the layout, the art work, the cutting of the stencils, and the running off of the finished product. Some of these leaflets took the form of announcements of the reports the students planned to make to their locals. They now feel confident to go back and put out leaflets themselves."

The workshop method did not stop with leaflets and bulletins.

The students prepared reports on various topics such as the "big lie" of employers that wage increases force price increases, gave these reports just as they would before a union and then criticized the reports frankly in order to profit by mistakes.

The school was not all workshop, however.

Class sessions covered five main topics, but the discussion rather than the lecture method prevailed with the students participating vigorously in the development of the subjects.

George Hitchcock of the California Labor School conducted a lively discussion on wages and profits. "Boy," said Kenneth Smith, Local 145, Portland, Oregon, "he really kept us on our toes. He kept firing questions at us. You couldn't tell who he was going to call on next."

Paul Pinsky of the research department of the California CIO Council, conducted a session on contracts and strike organization. When Pinsky pointed out that a union has to not only negotiate a contract but make it work to the union's advantage after it has been signed, one student said; "we get more out of our contract than's in it."

Jack Montgomery, FTA regional director for California and Arizona handled a session on stewards. Among other things, he said: "the steward is just another man with a badge on his shirt until the workers in his department are solid behind him. Then he's a union representative."

Steve Murdock, FTA international organizer from Modesto, Calif. handled the session on political action, which also featured a report on special legislative discrimination against food workers prepared by Marge Briggs, Porterville, a member of Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Workers Local 78. Kenneth Gatewood, Local 272, Bakersfield, Calif., submitted a proposed program for "Defend Labor Month" as an example of practical political action.

Education Director Anderson concluded the school by leading a discussion which got down to brass tacks on such things as the difference between the AFL and the CIO, where a member's dues money goes, how to make union meetings efficient and interesting, etc. Several evenings were spent conducting practice meetings.

Student Ruth Beckman from San Jose, a member of Local 78, pointed out that the Eexecutive Board has a duty and a responsibility to plan and conduct meetings which will be interesting and don't lag, and that committee reports proposing activity contribute to this result."

The rest of the students agreed and left the school determined to put pep into every phase of the activities of their locals.

But before they left they took quizzes in the subjects they had studies and received diplomas attesting to the work they had done.

"Boy," said one delegate, "it was sure a swell school. It was different—and better—than any other school I've ever been to."

And here's what the scenery looked like at the FTA School in Asilomar, Calif. That's the Pacific Ocean behind Al Medina, Local 64, San Diego.